

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

July/August 2015



Price: £1

FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear People of the Parish,

I am becoming old (which I can do nothing about) and cynical (which I can do something about but choose not to). I mention this because I have been reflecting on the *Monmouth 2020 Diocesan Strategy* document. In particular (once again) the suggestion that the group of parishes involving Mathern, Mounton, St. Pierre, Shirenewton, Chepstow (including Bulwark), St. Arvans, Itton, Kilgwrrg, Penterry and Devauden should form one 'Ministry Area' serviced by two priests.



It seems to me – and this is a personal view – that I have heard much of this before. OK, the language has changed – although we remain a *diocesan team* – but little has seemed to have altered since the *Hope for Monmouth* plans of a few years ago. It all appears to be about facing the future in a constructive and positive way. I have no argument with this stance but I do with certain assumptions which have been postulated alongside it. It is, I feel, all very well to go on about *collaborative ministry* and *ministry area development* but to suggest that these considerations are something new and fresh is misleading.

I have been ordained to this diocese for some 35 years. When I commenced service the hot issue was falling attendance and how do we address the situation. Many attempts – quite a few by sensitive and wise heads – were suggested whereby the situation could be, at least, stemmed and, at best, reversed. In those days the jargon (sometimes cringingly) included pronouncements such as *working alongside folk* whereas today, apparently, we should embrace *the freedom of becoming the people God wants us to be*. All I know is that in thirty five years the decline in church membership (with some honourable parish exceptions) has continued unabated.

I have encountered a somewhat (to me at least) bewildering statement which states: *It is not about organisational change, but about pioneer mission and ministry – but these require organisational change*. What does this mean? I missed the recent Netherwent Deanery Conference (I was arranging a funeral service which involved communication with someone in Switzerland) where such matters were discussed but was intrigued by the feed-back which filtered through to me. It seems as though some who attended were enthused by certain proposals, especially those which appeared to encourage increased lay participation in ministry. Others were troubled by the fact that many of these proposals were 'woolly', certain aspects needed to be considered at length and assumed that a clutch of lay representatives were clamouring to take on additional and sustained duties. Lay Readers and retired priests, which we rely on heavily too, have their own lives to lead.

With nine parishes including one being Chepstow and Bulwark, two priests would be dependant on the availability of Lay Readers, retired priests etc. In addition, there is the question of rites not always predictable among them certain weddings, funerals etc.

A somewhat arid 'editorial' this month but it will be interesting see how things develop on this front. And will it make any long-term difference?

With very best wishes for a relaxing summer.

Every blessing,

Julian LI White

St Thomas á Becket Church Shirenewton

200 CLUB WINNERS FOR JUNE

- 1st prize Sally Saysell
- 2nd prize Wendy Baker
- 3rd prize Nicky Smith
- 4th prize Sue Williams

WHIST DRIVES –

Whist Drives at the Recreational Hall Shirenewton continued on the **12th June**

And will continue on the **second Friday** of each month until the end of the year. We only had 21 players which was disappointing – however we will continue to December as those who do come enjoy the venue and the company – then we will review the situation. We open from 7 p.m. and start playing at 7.30 promptly – we have a 15-minute break for light refreshments and then play on till approximately 9.45 depending on the number of tables playing. We also have a raffle in aid of The Recreation Hall funds. The next Drive will be on Friday, 10th July. Please come and support us, as it is an important source of income for the Hall. Auriol Horton. 01291 641844



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SAMFAL

AGM

Wednesday 22nd July 2015
In the
Church Rooms

*Members are welcome to come
along and find out what we have
been doing to manage the fields*

ST. PETER'S NEWCHURCH



St. Peter's Newchurch Keep us dry campaign

Family Fun Day

St Peters Newchurch will be holding a Family Fun day on Saturday, 18th July at Church Farm (next to the church). There will be a bouncy castle, stalls, a BBQ and refreshments. Please come and join us and help raise funds for the Keep us Dry campaign.

Harvest Festival

This will be held on Thursday, 17th September in the church at 7pm. Ploughman's Supper at Church Farm afterwards, tickets £7.50. To book tickets, please contact Liz McCombe, 01291 652957. Booking is essential.

News

Songs of Praise

St Peters welcomed a capacity congregation of friends old and new for the Songs of Praise held on 14th May. Everyone was in fine voice and the rafters rang to well-loved tunes. Thank you to all who attended, and thanks also to Kath, our excellent organist!

Appeal

The organ at St Peters is showing definite signs of age, and has to be nursed through services. If anyone knows of a small electric organ in need of a good home and being played regularly, please contact Liz McCombe 01291 652957

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

I hope you've had a chance to check-out the all 'new look' fully responsive church website. In the past month I've managed to find time to update the 'community' section. The fund raising section is next!

I'll also be adding photos of the fete, etc. If anyone has any photos they'd be happy for me to post I'd love to get them and post them. Just let me know and we can work out how to transfer them.

At this time of year there are two 'standard' pleas:

1. Book your holidays through the shopping portal. There is a comprehensive travel section with airlines, travel portals (such as Expedia, Ebookers, Orpodo, Cheapflights, FlightNetwork, etc.), car hire and car parking all available. To remind you how the shopping portal works, you go to the portal (www.shirenewtonshop.com), locate the shop(s) and click on the links. This means you have been referred by the shopping portal and it gets a commission on sales made. I'd particularly recommend insurance4carhire which covers your CDW and more. It can pay for itself with as little as a week's rental.

2. Remember the security risks associated with wifi hotspots. Whether you are using a phone, tablet or laptop, just make sure that you have up-to-date security protection turned on. For tablets/phones it's worth install something like Lookout (the one I use) or the offerings from 360 Mobile Security, Avast!, ESET, Avira and many others. Simply google and review.

The key thing to remember is that there are two main vulnerabilities with such wifi hotspots.

The first is wifi hotspots which are masquerading as wifi hotspots but are actually set-up but cyber criminals to fool you into connecting and then they have access to your transmitted data. The advice is to check with the establishment what the name of their wifi hotspot is. Just because it has a brand name in the title (e.g. 'band name' free wifi) don't assume that it is connected with the establishment.

The second is to remember that most public wifi hotspots are not encrypted and, therefore, when you connect to a hotspot, your vulnerable. This CNet article '6 ways to use public Wi-Fi hot spots safely' (<http://tinyurl.com/nj9ludv>) although dated 2011 summarises the issues well.

If all you are doing is browsing the web and you are not logging onto secure accounts then the risk is minimal. However, think twice before using wifi hotspots to do anything such as banking, online shopping, etc.

Happy holidays & safe Browsing David Cornwell
webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com

SHIRENEWTON W.I JUNE '15

The first committee meeting since the AGM in May was held at the newly appointed president's house, Carol Jones. Unfortunately I could not attend. Just a word to the wise, if you ever find yourself on a committee, make **all** efforts to attend the first meeting, as that is where the responsibilities are delegated...hence my poor effort to write this report...do you think I volunteered for this?



Anyway...I'll give it a go...the June meeting wasn't a meeting as such, as we had a coach trip to the BBC Wales studios in Cardiff, our gratitude goes to Diane Ward for organising a very enjoyable afternoon. Some members from Portskewett W.I. joined the outing. Needless to say we had refreshments in a local public house, the Malsters, prior to our tour of the studios, well we had to build our strength up! The BBC studio tour was very informative, we were given a potted history of the present premises and informed of their intended move to new purpose built premises expected in the next couple of years, we were also told of all the programmes they help to make, as promised we were taken into a studio...for Crimewatch! Obviously they thought it was the most apt for our W.I. The tour ended with an opportunity to 'have a go', e.g. reading from a camera roll script, posing in front of a green screen, I must say some of the ladies really got into the feel for the part.



It is the centenary of the W.I., Shirley Bonsey was due to represent Shirenewton, Portskewett and Sudbrook W.Is for the National Federation of W.I.s at the Royal Albert Hall, where the Queen would be in attendance, unfortunately at the last minute, Shirley could not attend and we are awaiting to here how it went. So watch this space...

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Charity Coffee Morning in aid of St David's Hospice. We raised a total of £157.70 for a very worthy cause. We are going to make this an annual event as so many people expressed how much they enjoyed the morning.

The next meeting will be 7.15pm Thursday 9th July '15 at the Recreational Hall, 'Martin Phillips on piano', the competition: a musical record sleeve. Please ladies, you are very welcome to join us, there is always a cuppa and a biscuit and a chance to make new friends and to catch up with some old friends.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the June meeting

Planning applications considered

1. DC/2015/00431 'Oslo', Mynyddbach

Erection of split level bungalow & a pair of semi-detached dwellings with ancillary works (amended details to DC/2014/00108).

Council were concerned at the number of applications that have been submitted for the development of this site. Clerk to contact Planning to clarify the current position. Previous observations and comments still apply and should be taken into consideration. Overdevelopment of the site has not been addressed.

Recommendation: Refusal.

2. DC/2015/00423 'Brynawel', Earlswood

Two storey extension to the existing residential dwelling.

Council noted that the alterations were not visible from the road and there had been no objections on line. Recommendation: Approval, subject to alterations not exceeding 30% of footprint.

3. DC/2015/00371 'The Roost', Great House Farm, Newchurch West

Single storey small extension porch with utility room with pitched gable roof.

Size: 4.725m x 5.500m.

Council noted the positive improvement to the outlook at the rear of the property; that matching materials will be used for the extension; that no objections had been made. Recommendation: Approval, with the request that Planning monitors the development closely to ensure it complies with the application.

4. DC/2015/00533 Bluebell Farm, Penywaemawr (Agricultural application)

Replacement barn for machinery and storage/delivery of agricultural materials eg., feed, fertilizer and hay.

Council could only comment on this application, and noted that the plans were inaccurate as the size of the barn was different on the drawings to the paperwork; that the barn had no allowance for ventilation; that it should not be used for the purpose of housing stock. Council recommends that a site visit is made by an agricultural expert.

5. DC/2015/00534 Bluebell Farm, Penywaemawr (Agricultural application)
Access track for tractors, machinery and delivery of agricultural materials eg.,
feed, fertilizer and hay.

Council could only comment on this application, and noted that there was no track already existing; that as the field has a 20% slope, the drawing provided could not be installed; no indication of type of access/egress onto roadway; why could the track not run alongside the hedgerow as it would be less obtrusive and nearer to the barn; the proposed track partly runs up an existing bridleway which is always very wet, this alteration could allow water to flood onto the road/cycleway

6. DC/2014/00535 Great House Farm, Old Road, Earlswood
New access to Great Barn over our field using the existing access onto Four Acre Field. **Application withdrawn.**

Best Kept Village Competition 2015

The Competition will be judged during June and the judges visit on two occasions, will all residents please continue to keep the village neat and tidy throughout the month as we don't know when the judges will call.

The Council wishes to thank all the people in the village that helped with hedge and verge cutting, strimming, planting flowers and general clearing up. It is the community effort that is taken into account by the judges and the bonus is that it does help to keep the village looking beautiful throughout the summer.

Items of local concern –

Tidal Lagoon Power – Mr Neil Woollard, Head of Local Engagement at Tidal Lagoon Power gave a presentation on the planning process, positive benefits and environmental impact on the current tidal lagoon at Swansea and advised of additional locations earmarked for future lagoons.

A Question and Answer session followed, during which Mr Woollard was asked some very pertinent questions by members of the public, he agreed to respond to the questions that were posed.

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Shirenewton between 8 - 21 May. There had been four calls to Brookacre, with one resident making a complaint to the police.

Mr Woollard agreed to forward copies of his presentation. He also requested that he be invited to return to a Council meeting in January/February 2016 to provide an update on progress.

The monthly police report had been circulated prior to the meeting, but no officers were present. During the month there had been one break in.

Update on traffic calming proposals - County Cllr Down explained that the road surfacing being used is the first of its kind in the county and needs an extended period of dry weather before it can be laid. The job is currently out to tender and is expected to be completed in July/August. Councillors expressed their dissatisfaction at the length of time this work is taking.

Election of Councillors – Notices of two vacancies have been advertised on all noticeboards, Parish Magazine and the website, applications to be made to the Returning Officer, Mon CC by 10.6.15. Then either an election will take place, or the Community Council will be able to fill the vacancies by co-option.

Dates of next meetings: Monday 6th July and Monday 3rd August at 7.30pm at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton. The first 15 minutes of meetings are open to the public to raise issues with the Council.

Find more information in the draft copy of the minutes on the Community Council notice boards. Previous minutes of meetings can be found on the Council's website www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk

Contact the Clerk to the Community Council -

Mrs Hilary Counsell

Tel: 01291 421307

E-mail: Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

Shirenewton Community Council

Notice of vacancy for the office of Councillor in the Shirenewton Ward

We have a vacancy on the Community Council for a Councillor in the Shirenewton ward and are now able to co-opt onto the Council. If any resident of Mynyddbach, Shirenewton, Earlswood or Newchurch West is interested in applying for this position and needs further details please contact Hilary Counsell, Clerk to Shirenewton Community Council, Five Lanes House, Caerwent, Caldicot, Monmouthshire NP26 5PQ. Tel: 01291 421307
E-mail: ShirenewtonCC@gmail.com

Closing date: 24 July 2015

Shirenewton Community Council

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E-mail: ShirenewtonCC@gmail.com

Closing date: 24 July 2015

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

Our society visited Chepstow Castle on a bright but chilly afternoon, our guide for the afternoon was Henry Hodges who gave a background to the building of the castle and its illustrious history.

The view over Chepstow and the river was exceptional and we spent a very enjoyable afternoon exploring the many nooks and crannies of the vast fortification.

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday, 30th June Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel, talk entitled 'The Beyond in our midst: the Archaeology of Eternity in Roman Caerleon'.
Given by Dr Mark Lewis. 7.30 pm

Monday, 13th July Archive Meeting at the Recreational Hall, 2.00 pm 5.00 pm

Tuesday, 28th July Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel, talk entitled 'The History of Itton' Given by Naylor Firth 7.30 pm.

Everyone welcome at the above events

Further information on our web-site: www.shirenewtonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk

The Shirenewton historical spout tended by the W.I. Ladies



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MONMOUTH 2020

The Monmouth Diocesan Strategy 2015-2020 is outlined in a document called Monmouth 2020. This document outlines the framework of the strategy which requires parishes to provide the detail for their areas. It is not simply about organisational change, but about pioneer mission and ministry – but these require organisational change. The key element is collaborative ministry through ministry teams consisting of stipendiary, non-stipendiary and lay clergy, as well as volunteers holding offices. The diocese will provide resources and support through the ministry area development officer. The ministry share scheme will replace the parish share in 2016. Training for key members will be critical – clergy, lay and volunteers involved in administration and finance – but there is money in the budget from the Church in Wales to support training activities. The strategy will be adapted for each deanery and ministry area.

As part of the strategic review, all the different communications strands have been looked at – the diocesan newsletter, the refreshed website, more events, greater use of social media, and a monthly newsletter by email. Parishes will need to print out the newsletter and pin it on church notice boards for those without email. There will even be support for people in the diocese if they need help with social media! There is a diocesan children's youth and families' advisor to improve the encounters of children and families with worship through relationships and storytelling. She and her other two part time colleagues will visit all areas of the diocese to meet people and learn how to resource them. Monmouth 2020 stresses the freedom of becoming the people God wants us to be: the substance of ministry areas will be the people. The role of the diocese will be to provide support.

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FAIRTRADE NEWS



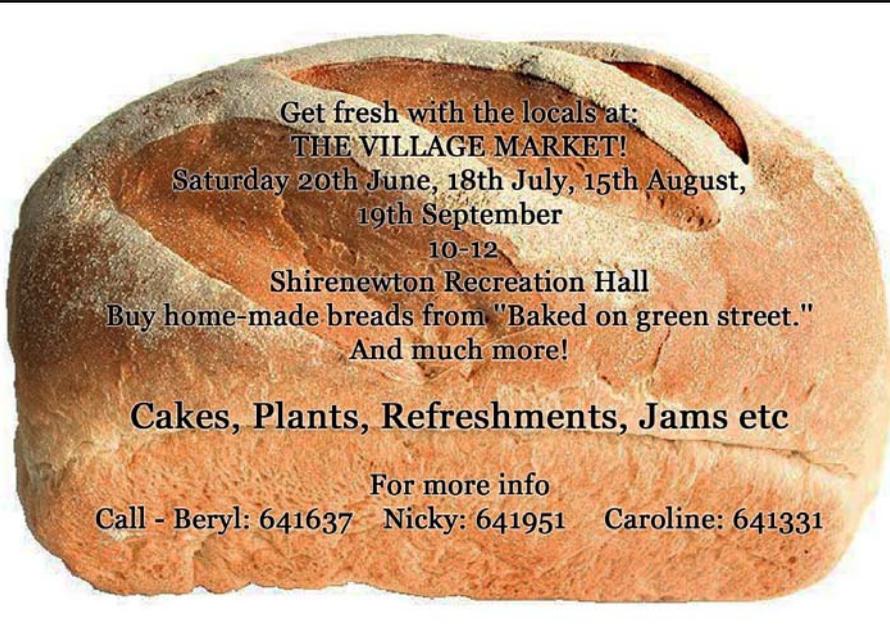
At the Fete my regular enquiry 'Are you a convert to bamboo socks?' elicited a range of replies. Some people were already familiar with the benefits of bamboo and others were treated to my spiel re: much better for the environment (far fewer pesticides and insecticides required than for cotton production, a less thirsty crop than cotton) naturally anti-fungal (sweeter smelling feet!)) AND of course these particular bamboo socks come with all the added benefits of being fairly-traded! Braintree is the name of the company to look out for - they do a wide range of ethically produced clothes.

Next on my list of suggestions (harassment?!) was the Traidcraft products containing palm oil. This ingredient is in an astonishingly wide range of everyday products, and conservationists are pressing hard to make the origin of all palm oil production transparent because in recent years vast tracts of forest in the far east have been cleared, often illegally to produce this lucrative crop. Try ringing the company up if you are in any doubt that the palm oil in a product is NOT from certified sources. This is satisfying! Recently, on another crusade (!) I rang Johnson and Johnson to ask if my daughter's face-wash contained PLASTIC micro beads. The poor girl started on a prepared statement about how they are planning to phase out this ghastly ingredient (the beads are so tiny they are not filtered out, but just pour out into the rivers). Public opinion CAN effect change!

Traidcraft's washing liquid, washing-up liquid, and handwash contain palm oil produced sustainably and fairly in Ghana, the original home of palm-oil. My third suggestion was that Palestinian almonds and olive-oil are really worth a try. The most wonderful quality and produced by people whose lives are fraught with hardship.

Thank you to all the people who made a purchase at the Fairtrade stall - it really does make a significant difference to many lives.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com



Get fresh with the locals at:
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19th September
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For more info
Call - Beryl: 641637 Nicky: 641951 Caroline: 641331

SAMFAL FIELD GANG

Do you have a bit of time to spare now and again?

Do you like the idea of keeping fit?

Do you like spending time out in our beautiful Monmouthshire countryside?

In order to suit as many people as possible the session timings will be varied; sometimes on the weekend; sometimes during week days and possibly, in the summer, during the evenings.



Would you like to join the Field Gang? I do hope so. Email me at:
dolly.shirenewton@gmail.com

Many thanks Jane Smith-Haddon

STARGAZING

The familiar pattern of Ursa Major, the Great Bear or Plough, is to be seen in the north-west, with the "W" of Cassiopeia climbing into the north-eastern sky.



The Summer Triangle can be seen overhead. This is a prominent triangle formed by the bright stars Altair, to the South of the triangle, Vega, closest to the Western horizon, and Deneb, to the East. South Sea Islanders call it the "navigator's triangle" since it was used to navigate on the open ocean in the Pacific.

Astronomers have used telescopes carried on satellites to observe a disk of gas and dust around Vega, which possibly means planets are forming in its vicinity. Nearly 2000 exo-planets (extra-solar planets) orbiting distant stars have been found to date. Astronomers estimate at least 17 billion Earth-sized exo-planets are present in the Milky Way galaxy. The discovery of exo-planets has intensified interest in the possibility of extra-terrestrial life.

Deneb is a supergiant star which is very bright indeed and far further away than the other stars in the triangle. Deneb is approximately 1500 lights years away whilst Altair and Vega are much closer at roughly 20 light years. So whilst the light we now see left Altair and Vega in the 1990s, we are viewing Deneb by light that left the star in the 6th century AD.

In the evening sky, at the beginning of the month, the bright planets Venus and Jupiter are close together near the horizon in the western sky. As the month draws on, they steadily move apart with brighter Venus on the left. On the 18th they are joined by the 3-day old crescent Moon. Saturn, which is slightly yellow in colour lies to the south. The Moon is to the left of Saturn on the 26th.

I was up all night wondering where the Sun had gone... then it dawned on me.

GARDENING CORNER

I can't make my mind up about this summer yet! The weathermen keep assuring me that the temperatures are currently running very close to the seasonal norm, yet it doesn't seem like it to me. Maybe its age but probably more likely that the weather is going through a bit of a benign stage at the moment so nothing noteworthy, rather than the extremes of which we seem to be getting used to. The garden has been a bit like that as well. Yes there have already been some successes along the way, but also some failures as well to counter the highs – and we are only at the beginning of the gardening year really!

In the flower garden the extra time that I now have available due to partial retirement is starting to show some results. I am at long last starting to tidy up those wild areas that have escaped from me over the last nine years. There is an awful lot more to do but I'm determined to get there. Those that will have to wait until next year get the occasional attention from either the strimmer or a judicious dose of herbicide, if only to keep them in some sense of order until I have the time to turn my attention to them. One area that I have started to reclaim is near the entrance to our house – if first impressions mean so much when people visit, then they must think us a pair of idle beggars! This was 'abandoned' some nine or ten years ago when we extended our house a little. This required digging the foundations for our conservatory, which unfortunately removed in the process a 'stream' that connected our two ponds. This was the start of the abandonment, which has meant that some brambles have taken hold among other things and the assistant head gardeners view from the kitchen window has suffered as a result. Fortunately she has been very patient in this department and I have received little in the way of flak for the ruined view. Fortunately we get few visitors (although we love visitors when they do come and see us I might add!), so the first impressions thing hasn't been too big a deal, but things are on the up. I had decided to remove one pond altogether, but as the other has fish in, the thought of retaining a wildlife pond only is still an attraction. I'll make an impulse decision when I get nearer to the stage of making my mind up, for the time being it's clearance time. I am regretting one decision to plant a pond side plant many years ago that I bought from a garden centre. This is similar to 'mare's tail' which can be a real weed thug in the garden if you have it. The pond plant was meant to provide nice straight stems for damsels and other insects to climb up to shed their skins before

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taking flight. Unfortunately it has now spread throughout this area and even come up under the pond piercing straight through the liner – another reason why the pond has to go. Time these nurseries stopped selling such rampant plants. I have a few other thugs to contend with as well such as the 'standard' pink Japanese anemone. Nice flowers but spread everywhere. Fortunately I have a very large bonfire heap that comprises of a lot of soil and some peat (where I have burnt weeds and failed potted plants). This will be used to fill the rather large hole left by the pond.

In the vegetable garden things are looking reasonable. Unfortunately the garlic has suffered from rust and will need harvesting slightly earlier than usual. This has been due to the warm, humid weather and me not noticing that they needed the attention of a little fungicide spray. Hopefully the size of the bulbs won't have suffered too much. It hasn't spread to the leeks or onions yet, but I'll need to keep my eyes open. Most of the raised beds are full up now and I'm waiting for some crops, like the garlic, to finish so that I can dig them up and replace them with the next crop. I have celeriac in pots that are ready to replace the garlic. The beans, especially the runner and French varieties have suffered due to the sun again this year. I can never remember this being a problem year's ago and can only think it is down to the atmosphere letting more harmful rays through. I intend to work a little harder next year to 'harden' the plants off before planting to see if that helps. They do survive if burnt, but it does set them back several weeks. Unfortunately I will have to sow my carrots again as the first lot germinated well but seem to have disappeared. I can only think that the slugs have had a field day as I can't think of anything else. Rain is forecast for tomorrow, so I need to clear the weeds and get sowing later if I can in order to take advantage of the weather.

In the tunnels I am gradually replacing the early crops with the next. Calabrese in the large tunnel has done well and this is now being removed and replaced with peppers – both sweet and hot varieties (we have discovered a very simple method for making our own chilli oil). One bed of 'old' strawberries that is past it's 'sell-by' date is also to be removed for the same purpose (not that we like chillies you understand!). The remaining bed of calabrese will be replaced by tomatoes in the next week or so. These have been potted on into larger pots in order to keep them going a little longer, so hopefully they will be OK. In the smaller greenhouse,

so growing in this way prevents any soil borne problems building up. The new potatoes were planted very early in the spring and were just some small ones left over that were too small to peel. The resulting crop has been amazing. So what was an experiment, has turned out remarkably well.

Varroa mite has been a challenging problem for all bee-keepers, each keeper deals with it in different ways. I have a couple of things that I do, including treating the bees after any honey has been removed (usually end of August / beginning of September). This is a recognised treatment, but I was reading an article in a bee magazine the other day (yes I do get time to occasionally sit down!), that suggested that doing nothing might be a better option. The theory being that if left alone, the bee's inherent ability to survive would surface and they would learn to cope or fight off the mite. The article also suggested that many problems we face as bee-keepers might ultimately be linked with the way we manage them. I have had a couple of swarms in recent weeks, despite trying to manage the bees attempts to expand the numbers of colonies. As with last year I have the challenging situation where at least two hives don't appear to have an active queen for whatever reason. I've never had this problem in years gone by – only in the last few – so it does make you wonder why this is happening now. I need to look at the hives again later today to see what is happening and to make a decision as to how best to manage the situation. I also have a very large swarm to put in a hive. I'll let you know how I get on in a couple of months time!

Happy gardening until next time. Steve and Felicity Hunt.

SHIRENEWTON FETE 2015

In traditional manner, the Carnival Parade started off from Clearview and wound its way up to the recreation field in time for the fete to open on the afternoon of Saturday 13th June. The planning committee, ably chaired by Mark Tomlins,



thought of everything from tents and marquees, to tables and chairs, the grand draw, the signs and bunting, the food and the drink, electricity, and the entertainment for young and old and the not-so-young and the not-so-old. The

only thing they could not arrange was the warm, dry weather we usually associate with the fete. To be fair it only rained a little, in a sort of desultory 'I think I should be raining now' sort of way, not in the vicious 'I'll make you wet wherever you are, whatever you're wearing' sort of way. But it did rain. A bit. Well maybe more than a bit.

But that didn't matter. Nobody cared. Everyone turned out and had a great time from the moment Shirenewton school year 6 sang the opening song celebrating their 30th anniversary – the school not the children – playing skittles and shying coconuts, and covering their faces in candy floss and ice cream, and taking a punt on the sweet tombola, and guessing the weight of the salmon. People bought



books and bottles, Welsh cakes, flowers and plants, cakes and bread, burgers and hot dogs, Pimms, beer and cider, and White Elephants. They enjoyed the clog dancing and music provided by the Brandy Wine Cloggers

and the gymnastic display by the Kestrels Gym Club and the alpacas and the dog show – especially the



dog show, well done John Montague – and a new innovation this year, the Tug of War – well done Geoff Marlow. They chipped golf balls into tyres, they

wanged wellies enthusiastically to their heart's content, and they checked out Newton's laws of action and reaction on the bouncy castle.

There were opportunities to find out more about the local area from the local history society; to make your views known about the future of the Church in the village, under the new strategy for the Monmouth Diocese and the consultation that is being carried out by the Parochial Church Council, with all interested people in Shirenewton and Mynyddbach; and to relax with a refreshing cup of tea and cake and biscuits with the Women's Institute.

The list of thank yous is longer than the book of excuses for not lending me a fiver, but we were very fortunate and very grateful to our sponsors



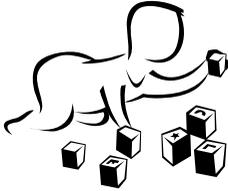
Terry Hicks of Hicks Logistics, Peter Moon Estate Agents, Stratstone Landrover, Marlow Vets, Deacon Florists, Riverford Foods, The Carpenters Arms, The Huntsman Pub, the Parochial Church Council, the Recreation Committee, Shirenewton School, all the stall holders, the private donors and everyone who came along to support us in spite of the rain! Without your support the fete would not have made about £5,200 for the Church and the community projects it supports.



RESULTS OF THE 2015 FETE

STALL	£
ART STALL	5.00
BEER TENT	167.15
BEEFBURGERS	427.15
BOOK STALL/Scouts	121.78
BOTTLE STALL	476.55
BOUNCY CASTLE	116.00
CAKES	702.55
CANDY FLOSS	108.80
COCONUT SHY	125.20
DOG SHOW	48.00
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ICES	69.00
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PLANT STALL	437.50
RAFFLE	701.00
SKITTLES	33.00
WELSH WELLY WANGING	112.70
WHITE ELEPHANT	146.95
WI TEAS	246.75
WELSH CAKES	58.90
TOTAL STALLS	4633.34
SPONSORSHIP	1600.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>6233.34</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1013.00</u>
PROFIT	<u>5220.34</u>

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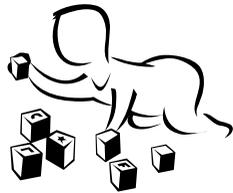
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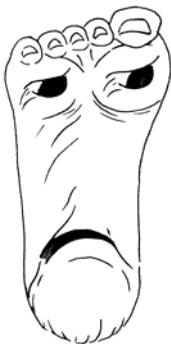
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Strawberries



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One of the charms of summer; strawberries are full of anti-aging and disease fighting nutrients. They are packed with vitamin C, essential for making collagen, a protein that helps in keeping the skin youthful. Vitamin C is also needed for healing wounds and keeps off gum disease. Their vitamin B content makes them useful for supporting the nervous system. Strawberries contain ellagic acid, a chemical that has shown to help fight cancers and destroy toxins in cigarette smoke and polluted air. The berries are rich in fibre for healthy digestion and heart. To protect these precious nutrients the strawberries are best eaten fresh and raw.

What could be better than going **strawberry picking**? Strawberries always taste better when freshly harvested and eaten the same day.

Most fruits can be dipped in melted chocolate, whether it's white, milk or dark chocolate. It's always a treat. Wash the berries first and allow to dry completely before dipping in the melted chocolate. Then decorate.



Platter

Dipped chocolate strawberries, chocolate truffles, heart biscuits and spoon shaped biscuits dipped in chocolate.

Could be served at parties, weddings afternoon tea or summer dinner parties.



Strawberry Lollipops

What a fun thing for children to do. A good idea for summer parties. Put the strawberries on wooden skewers then dip the washed strawberries, in melted chocolate then dip once more in coconut or chopped nuts.

Strawberries for decoration

Make your favourite dessert and decorate with strawberries. These puddings I made for the harvest festival lunch; trifle and chocolate mousse decorated with whipped cream, strawberries and chocolate amaretto fingers. **Enjoy!**



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	Andrew Baker	01291 641925
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PCC Treasurers	Kevin Bounds	01291 641818
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	Charles Eickhoff	01291 641716
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Paul Harris Chair 01291 650871

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Ken Morton 01291 650268

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Earlswood Sue Leat 01291 641207

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DIARY DATES

July	Event	Location
3rd 7:30pm	Call my Bluff Wine Tasting	Church Rooms
6th 7:30pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
9th 7:15pm	Shirenewton WI	Recreation Room
10th &:00pm	Whist Drive	Recreation Hall
13th 2:00	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
18th 10:00am	The Village Market	Recreation Hall
18th	St Peter's Church Newchurch Family Fun Day	Church Farm (Next to Church)
28th 7:30pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Huntsman Hotel
August	Event	Location
3rd 7:30	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
Sept.	Event	Location
17th 7:00pm	St Peter's Church Newchurch Harvest Festival & Ploughman's Supper	St Peter's Church Church Farm

	St Thomas á Becket Shirenewton	Sunday Services	Start 10.00am Unless stated otherwise
Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
July 5th	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	Bob Grattan Cynthia Smith	Bob Grattan Cynthia Smith
July 12th	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	James Lenev Joanne Tomlins	Claire Lewis Joanne Tomlins
July 19th	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	Mark Broughton Kevin Bounds	Mark Broughton Kevin Bounds
July 26th	MATINS Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	James Lenev Diane Marlow	Claire Lewis Diane Marlow

You may not be aware that for one Sunday a month we now have a service of Morning Prayer (Matins) rather than Holy Communion, to provide a little variety and because some people may prefer that style of worship. Thanks to our intrepid organists and other enterprising musicians who lead the singing, we are able to sing hymns and canticles. The service is a little shorter than usual but can be very beautiful. It may be more suited to you, if you don't wish to participate in communion for any reason. Why not check out the Diary Dates to find out when Matins is on and come and join us?



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Editor: Terry Walters 01291 641338 email: terencewalters@hotmail.com

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Editorial policy is to print what you provide, space and technology permitting.

The views expressed are those of the contributor.

Deadline for September 2015 issue is 9:00am 24th August 2015